

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EPG-02 AGRE-00 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 ARA-10

COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 OIC-02 EUR-12 /069 W

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R 131400Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5845

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, OCON, XM

SUBJECT: U.S. PARTICIPATION IN LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL CONFER-
ENCES

REF: ROME 10048

1. THE FAO COUNCIL RECOMMENDED TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL THAT THE NEXT FAO REGIONAL MEETINGS (1978) SHOULD DECIDE ON THEIR RESPECTIVE MEMBERSHIP AND NOTED THE LATIN AMERICAN REQUEST THAT INVITATION FROM THE FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL ONLY BE SENT TO COUNTRIES SERVICED BY THE REGIONAL OFFICE. FOR EXACT COUNCIL LANGUAGE SEE ROME 10048 PARA 2C.

2. THE WORDING IS AMBIGUOUS AS TO WHOM DIRECTOR GENERAL SHOULD SEND INVITATION, BUT THE LATIN AMERICAN GROUP HERE IN ROME HAVE MADE IT CLEAR IN THEIR OPINION THAT THE DIRECTOR GENERAL SHOULD NOT SEND INVITATIONS TO U.S., FRANCE AND NETHERLANDS TO PARTICIPATE IN LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE. THE LATIN AMERICAN GROUP HERE IN ROME IS VERY WORKED UP ON THE ISSUE.

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3. IN FACT THE FAO REGIONAL CONFERNCES ARE MAINLY DISCUSSION WITH VERY FEW DECISIONS. VOTES ARE ALMOST UNHEARD OF, SO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PARTICIPATION AS AN OBSERVER OR AS A REGULAR MEMBER IS NOT IMPORTANT FOR PROTECTING U.S. POLCIY IN THE FAO. THEREFORE FROM A PURELY FAO POINT OF VIEW, THE EASIEST COURSE OF ACTION IS TO GIVE A SIGNAL TO THE FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL THAT

WE WILL NOT OBJECT IF HE SENDS US AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE AS AN OBSERVER. SUCH A DECISION WOULD HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED WITH FRANCE AND HOLLAND.

4. WHAAT WE ARE NOT SO SURE ABOUT IS THE DEPTH OF THIS ISSUE IN LATIN AMERICA. IT IS POSSIBLE THIS IS PURELY A LOCAL EFFORT ON BEHALF OF THE LATIN AMERICAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAO. SECOND, WE ARE NOT SURE OF OTHER RAMIFICATIONS OF THIS ISSUE ON OTHER U.S. POLICIES TOWARDS LATIN AMERICA.

5. RECOMMENDATION: THAT THE DEPARTMENT WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCES LOOK INTO OUR REAL INTERESTS IN CONTINUING TO PARTICIPATE AS FULL MEMBERS. SECOND, THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT SOUND OUT A FEW, SELECT LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO MEASURE THE DEPTH OF POSITION OF THE LATIN AMERICANS ON THIS ISSUE. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ROME11410
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770249-0563
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770762/aaaacblr.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ROME 10048
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1876557
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. PARTICIPATION IN LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL CONFER- ENCES
TAGS: OCON, XM, FAO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bced576c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009